

do so would prevent the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board from being able to provide timely and accurate services to investors or would place an excessive burden on the administrative capacity of the Board to accommodate participants in the Thrift Savings Plan, as determined by the Secretary of Defense after consultation with the Executive Director (appointed by the Board).

“(3) Paragraph (1) includes the authority to postpone the effective date of the amendments made by this subtitle (apart from section 211(a)(2) of title 37, United States Code), and the effective date of such section 211(a)(2), by different lengths of time.

“(4) The Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives], the Committee on Government Reform [now Committee on Oversight and Reform] of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Governmental Affairs [now Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs] of the Senate of any determination made under this subsection.”

#### REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title VI, § 661(b), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 672, as amended by Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title VI, § 661(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-167, provided that: “Not later than the 180th day after the date of the enactment of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 [Oct. 30, 2000], the Executive Director (appointed by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board) shall issue regulations to implement the amendments made by this subtitle [subtitle F (§§ 661-663) of title VI of div. A of Pub. L. 106-65, enacting this section and section 211 of Title 37, Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services, and amending sections 8351, 8432b, 8433, 8439, and 8473 of this title and section 211 of Title 37].”

#### § 8440f. Maximum percentage allowable for certain participants

(a) The maximum percentage allowable under this section shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

In the case of a pay period beginning in fiscal year:	The maximum percentage allowable is:
2001 .....	6
2002 .....	7
2003 .....	8
2004 .....	9
2005 .....	10
2006 or thereafter .....	100.

(b) Notwithstanding any limitation under this section, an eligible participant (as defined by section 414(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) may make such additional contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund as are permitted by such section 414(v) and regulations of the Executive Director consistent therewith.

(Added Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(4) [div. B, title I, § 138(a)(7)(A)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-234; amended Pub. L. 107-304, § 1(b)(2), Nov. 27, 2002, 116 Stat. 2363.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 414(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to in subsec. (b), is classified to section 414(v) of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

##### AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-304 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-304 effective as of the earliest practicable date determined by the Executive Director in regulations, see section 1(c) of Pub. L. 107-304, set out as a note under section 8351 of this title.

#### SUBCHAPTER IV—SURVIVOR ANNUITIES

##### § 8441. Definitions

For the purpose of this subchapter—

(1) the term “widow” means the surviving wife of an employee, Member, or annuitant, or of a former employee or Member, who—

(A) was married to him for at least 9 months immediately before his death; or

(B) is the mother of issue by that marriage;

(2) the term “widower” means the surviving husband of an employee, Member, or annuitant, or of a former employee or Member, who—

(A) was married to her for at least 9 months immediately before her death; or

(B) is the father of issue by that marriage;

(3) the term “dependent”, in the case of any child, means that the employee, Member, or annuitant involved was, at the time of death of the employee, Member, or annuitant either living with or contributing to the support of such child, as determined in accordance with such regulations as the Office shall prescribe; and

(4) the term “child” means—

(A) an unmarried dependent child under 18 years of age, including (i) an adopted child, (ii) a stepchild but only if the stepchild lived with the employee, Member, or annuitant in a regular parent-child relationship, (iii) a recognized natural child, and (iv) a child who lived with and for whom a petition of adoption was filed by an employee, Member, or annuitant and who is adopted by the widow or widower of the employee, Member, or annuitant after the death of such employee, Member, or annuitant;

(B) such unmarried dependent child regardless of age who is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical disability incurred before age 18; or

(C) such unmarried dependent child between 18 and 22 years of age who is a student regularly pursuing a full-time course of study or training in residence in a high school, trade school, technical or vocational institute, junior college, college, university, or comparable recognized educational institution.

For the purpose of this paragraph and section 8443, a child whose 22nd birthday occurs before July 1 or after August 31 of a calendar year, and while regularly pursuing such a course of study or training, is deemed to have become 22 years of age on the first day of July after that birthday. A child who is a student is deemed not to have ceased to be a student during an interim between school years if the interim is not more than 5 months and if such child shows to the satisfaction of the Office that

such child has a bona fide intention of continuing to pursue a course of study or training in the same or different school during the school semester (or other period into which the school year is divided) immediately after the interim.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 558.)

#### § 8442. Rights of a widow or widower

(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (g), if an annuitant dies and is survived by a widow or widower, the widow or widower is entitled to an annuity equal to 50 percent of an annuity computed under section 8415 with respect to the annuitant, (or one-half thereof, if designated for this purpose under section 8419 of this title), unless—

(A) the right to an annuity was waived under section 8416(a) (and no election was subsequently made under section 8416(d) nullifying the waiver); or

(B) in the case of a marriage after retirement, the annuitant did not file an election under section 8416(b) or (c), as the case may be.

(2) A spouse acquired after retirement is entitled to an annuity under this subsection (as provided in paragraph (1)) only upon electing this annuity instead of any other survivor benefit to which such spouse may be entitled under this subchapter or section 8424 or under another retirement system for Government employees.

(b)(1) If an employee or Member dies after completing at least 18 months of civilian service creditable under section 8411 and is survived by a widow or widower, the widow or widower is entitled to—

(A) an amount equal to the sum of—

(i) 50 percent of the final annual rate of basic pay (or of the average pay, if higher) of the employee or Member; and

(ii) \$15,000 as adjusted under section 8462(e); and

(B) if the employee or Member completed at least 10 years of service, an annuity equal to 50 percent of an annuity computed under section 8415 with respect to the employee or Member, but without regard to subsection (f) of such section.

(2) The Office shall prescribe regulations under which the total amount payable to a widow or widower under paragraph (1)(A) may, at the election of the widow or widower, be paid—

(A) in a lump sum; or

(B) on a monthly basis—

(i) over a period of 3 years beginning on the day after the employee's or Member's death; or

(ii) over any other period established under the regulations.

Any method of payment provided for under subparagraph (B) shall be designed such that the present value of the benefits provided under such method is actuarially equivalent to the present value of a lump-sum payment under subparagraph (A).

(3) An amount payable under paragraph (1)(A) shall not be considered to be part of an annuity for purposes of this chapter.

(c)(1) If a former employee or Member dies after having separated from the service with title to a deferred annuity under section 8413 but before having established a valid claim for an annuity, and is survived by a widow or widower to whom married on the date of separation, the widow or widower may elect to receive—

(A) an annuity under paragraph (2); or

(B) the lump-sum credit, if the widow or widower is the individual who would be entitled to the lump-sum credit and if such widow or widower files application therefor with the Office.

(2)(A)(i) Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (B)(ii), the annuity of the widow or widower is equal to 50 percent of an annuity computed under section 8415 for the former employee or Member.

(ii)(I) In computing an amount under section 8415 for a former employee or Member (described in subclause (II)) in order to compute the annuity for a widow or widower under this subsection, the computation under section 8415 shall be made as if the former employee or Member had attained the applicable minimum retirement age under section 8412(h).

(II) This clause applies with respect to a former employee or Member who dies before having attained the applicable minimum retirement age under section 8412(h).

(B)(i) Notwithstanding the first sentence of subsection (d)(1), the annuity of the widow or widower of a former employee or Member under subparagraph (A)(ii) commences—

(I) on the day after the date on which the former employee or Member would have attained age 62 (or, if applicable, either age 60 if the former employee or Member completed at least 20 years of service, or the applicable minimum retirement age (under section 8412(h)) if the former employee or Member completed at least 30 years of service); or

(II) if the widow or widower so designates in the election, as of the day after the death of the former employee or Member.

(ii) The present value of the annuity of a widow or widower who chooses the earlier commencement date under clause (i)(II) shall be actuarially equivalent to the present value of an annuity computed for the widow or widower, determined as if the commencement date under clause (i)(I) were applicable.

(3)(A) Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply only in the case of an employee or Member who completes at least 10 years of service.

(B) Nothing in this subsection shall be considered to affect the provisions of this chapter relating to a lump-sum credit in the case of the widow or widower of a former employee or Member who dies after completing less than 10 years of service.

(d)(1) The annuity of a widow or widower under this section commences on the day after the death of the individual on whose service such annuity is based. This annuity and the right thereto terminate on the last day of the month before the widow or widower—

(A) dies; or

(B) except as provided in paragraph (3), remarries before becoming 55 years of age.